Livingston:

What do you tell your friends or family or colleagues about Cordell Bank today? For instance, how would you describe it to somebody?

01:24:53

Schmieder:

I tell them that I am absolutely astonished and thrilled that there is a national marine sanctuary in really good hands and that long ago we did a project that was tough, and we were tough, and that it doesn't always work for it to come to a good or a productive end. Sometimes, the plane crashes. Sometimes, the ship gets frozen in ice in Antarctica, and the expedition leader has to row over 1,800 miles to get his men rescued and so on.

Here, the process worked, and I was the beneficiary of a good employment situation which gave me vacation time, a sensible salary that gave me money, a great team of people that did it, and then it all resulted in what appears to be a permanent part of our historical environmental culture. That's what I tell people now about Cordell Bank.

If they care to know what's at Cordell Bank, I have a few things I can say, but what I tell my friends is how proud I am that what we did – we did something that led to something. What we did can never be undone, and we hope and believe that what is there now will never be undone, either. So we're part of history.